

BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

John M. Brown, Jr.
Chairman

Russell J. Anzalone
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey
Member

Kim Dennison
Coordinator

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MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

November 30, 2012

Commission members present: John Brown, Jr., Russell Anzalone, and Robbyn Tumey

Others present: Kim Dennison and Sharon Rose

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. and welcomed everyone

Coordinator's Report:

Kim Dennison reported that two companies have contacted her requesting to make a presentation on different kinds of election materials. Commissioner Tumey asked Kim for the name of the two companies. Kim responded, Hart Intercivic and Robis. Kim stated that Robis would like to have a webinar and Hart Intercivic would like to have a conference call. Chairman Brown asked about Robis and Kim responded that Robis is a company that offers Electronic Poll Books. Commissioner Tumey requested that Kim advise the two (2) companies that the election commission is doing some internal research and that she would be in contact with them. Kim stated that she would email Commissioner Tumey their information. Chairman Brown stated that Hart Intercivic is only used in three other Arkansas counties.

New Business:

- A. Official Certification of Election Results of the General Run-Off Election held November 27, 2012:
Chairman Brown reported that there are still fifty-one (51) outstanding overseas absentee ballots and no provisional ballots. Commissioner Anzalone asked how many precincts were opened and how many workers per precinct. Kim responded that there were twenty-seven (27) precincts opened with an average of four (4) workers per precinct. Commissioner Anzalone stated that the General Run-Off Election cost approximately \$12,000. Chairman Brown stated that Precinct 36, First Assembly of God Church was moved to Precinct 34, Bentonville Church of Christ because there were only four (4) possible voters in that precinct. Chairman Brown asked Kim if any of the four (4) voted. Kim replied, no. Chairman Brown stated that precincts 34, 36, and 41 had no voters. Commissioner Tumey asked Kim how many paper ballots were ordered. Kim responded that approximately 11,000 paper ballots were ordered. Chairman Brown made a motion to approve the Official Certification of Election Results for the General Run-Off Election held November 27, 2012, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by voice vote.

Other Business:

Commissioner Tumey stated that after the first of the year she would like to see weekly meetings “to get our head around” to fix the problems with the Ivotronics, how to order paper ballots, so not to have a reoccurrence like the November 6, 2012 election, and to have checks and balances in the process of the elections. Commissioner Tumey added that in 2014, there would be another large election with issues and the election commission needs to be better prepared. Chairman Brown asked Commissioner Tumey what were her thoughts are on the percentage for ordering paper ballots. Commissioner Tumey stated she has information for 2008, 2010, and 2012 in which she could start calculating numbers. The commissioners agreed that additional polling sites were needed, and to increase the availability of early voting to include additional sites apart from the three (3) offices of the Benton County clerk. The commissioners agreed that the county will need to buy additional computers and printers to operate additional voting sites and hire additional poll workers to staff the polling locations. In addition, a full-time staff member will be needed to handle the increased election workload. Chairman Brown has asked the County Clerk’s office for two (2) maps to show the boundaries for Centerton and Bethel Heights. Chairman Brown stated that Centerton could possibly be split into an additional three (3) precincts while Bethel Heights City Hall is not available for voting in 2013. Commissioner Tumey proposed that the commissioners go to the Quorum Court outlining the commission’s plans for changing the election process. Chairman Brown added that there are different ballot-counting machines, including some that count ballots at the precinct level. He stated that there are some problems where the machines have not counted ballots that have under or over-votes on a ballot, but believed there was a way to bypass that situation. Commissioner Tumey stated that those machines could be undesirable if they lengthen the time needed to vote. Chairman Brown stated there would be further discussion in upcoming meetings.

Old Business:

None

Public Comment:

None

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Anzalone, Secretary
Prepared by Sharon Rose
Benton County Election Commission